

City of Clewiston

Public Notice

The Zika virus is a virus that has caught the attention of people all over the country. It is spread to people primarily through the bite of an infected *Aedes* mosquito; the only mosquito species known to carry the virus. **The Zika virus has not been confirmed in Clewiston.** Lee County has two of the nine confirmed cases in Florida. These cases are referred to as “travel cases” as the people with the virus came into the area from outside the country.

The *Aedes aegypti* or *Aedes albopictus* is known as a container breeding mosquito. Insuring items such as flower pot trays, toys, bird baths, feeders, boats or rain gutters are cleaned, emptied and/or covered to prevent standing water will aid in eliminating the mosquito habitat. Within the mosquito life cycle, it takes as little as five days for eggs to hatch and feed and requires only a small area of habitat to do so.

If you must go outside, cover up your body; wear light colored long sleeves and long pants. Spray exposed skin with an insect repellent containing deet.

The City of Clewiston’s mosquito program is actively trapping mosquitoes and spraying in areas where trap counts support spray missions. The staff has put out over one hundred “30 day larvicide bricks” in standing water along Okeechobee Blvd. We have been in contact with Lee County Mosquito District (the nation’s largest and leading mosquito program) and follow the same guide lines and operations as they do. The City’s mosquito control contractor, Clarke Environmental, who also treats Hendry County, is working on a strategy to combat this situation should the Health Department release a Public Warning about the Zika virus. If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact the Clewiston Public Works Dept. at telephone no. (863) 983-1471, Monday-Friday from 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.